

REMARKS

Claims 3, 7 and 8 have been allowed, while claims 1 and 4-6 have been rejected with claims 1 and 4 being rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Birch and claims 5 and 6 being rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Birch.

In response to this rejection, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 5 and 6 and have amended claim 4 so that it depends from the allowed claim 7.

Therefore, because claim 4 further limits claim 7 it is also submitted as being allowable.

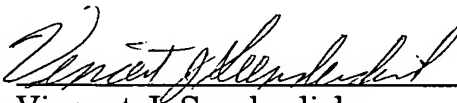
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this application containing claims 3-4 and 7-8 be allowed and be passed to issue.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038849.47927US).

Respectfully submitted,

May 21, 2004


Vincent J. Sunderdick
Registration No. 29,004

CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
VJS:ast (320159)